

On This Date

September 6, 1930

A Nokomis, Illinois, coal miner, **Andy Bednar** makes his major debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates on September 6, 1930. Relieving **Steve Swetonic** with one out in the ninth inning of a 19-14 loss to the Chicago Cubs, the 22-year-old allows three runs on two walks and two hits, including a two-run inside-the-park home run by Cub centerfielder **Hack Wilson**, his 47th of the year.

A 5-foot-10, 180-pound, right-hander, Bednar will make five relief appearances for the Corsairs in 1930 and 1931, finishing his career with a 15.19 ERA. He allows 14 hits in 5 1/3 innings with three strikeouts and one walk.



Desperate to earn a good salary to help in the care of his semi-paralyzed brother, in 1929 Bednar writes the manager of the McCook minor league team in the Nebraska State (D) League asking for a tryout. Given an opportunity, he responds by going 21-4 for the Generals while issuing only 30 walks in 230 innings. A year later, he makes the jump to A ball with the Wichita Aviators and is 18-7 with a 3.83 ERA when on August 30, he is called up by the Pirates.

In seven minor league seasons, Bednar is 65-21. Twice he will win 20-or-more games, including a career-best 22-4 mark in 1932 with the Western League's Tulsa Oilers. In 1933 he is 2-1 when his season, and his career, comes to an end when he has an operation to remove bone chips in his right elbow.

For the next four years Bednar plays for various semipro teams in Florida, Texas and Oklahoma and even has an aborted one-game comeback with Tulsa in 1937. On November 26, 1937, Bednar is on his way to work at an oil well in Caddo, Texas, when he is killed in a car accident in nearby Graham.